

he replied that he didn't care whether the program worked, he just didn't like it.

Fortunately, at that time, we had a Congress that stood up to such dogma—on a bipartisan basis, I might add—and saved effective programs for children. But those days are long gone. The new extremist element in control of the Congress neither understands the programs nor appreciates their achievements. With a rhetorical tip of the hat to the apparently magical capabilities of state and local governments, with a cynical reliance on the limitless abilities of private charities, they have set about destroying our ability to protect children and give them hope.

You know, they call the Republican welfare reform bill the Personal Responsibility Act. And I am all for people meeting their responsibilities—to their children, to their families, and to their communities. When people don't push their kids to finish school or support their kids, or look hard to find employment, I think emphasizing personal responsibility makes a lot of sense.

But government has responsibilities, too, particular to our poorest, and most vulnerable, children. I have no admiration for political leaders, and make no concession to political strategies, that abandon those responsibilities to America's children.

These people aren't just about taking away the safety net. They want to fold up the tent and put the whole show out of business.

I don't know anyone who's not committed to making the bureaucracy more efficient and the programs more cost-effective. We made important changes in welfare policy, in child care, in services to dysfunctional families and children in crisis, and those policies work, with a lot of hard effort from volunteers and professionals at all levels. And we need to make more.

But you don't cure nutritional problems by cutting one fifth of the food stamp program a program that feeds 14 million children—as the House-passed welfare bill would do.

You don't give kids a chance in the future by denying children with Down Syndrome and cerebral palsy financial assistance, as it would do.

You don't make the foster care system more responsive by eliminating basic children's rights and turning the program over to the states, half of which are under court orders for failing to comply with the law.

So, at a time when should be learning from our experiences and building stronger programs, people like Nancy Daly are trudging to Capitol Hill and meeting with every Senator and aide she can find, as she did this month, urging that they put aside partisanship, ideology and fanaticism and think, as she has been for twenty years, about the children.

Nancy has a lot to teach the Congress.

She can teach them about the value of comprehensive services, about the need for legal advocates, about the contributions (and the limitations) of what volunteerism can do. She can demonstrate to them the need for a responsive government and the necessity of having someone in that bureaucracy whose job to think about children first. She can even show them how a liberal Democrat and a powerful Republican can get along together.

I would have hope that, at this stage, we wouldn't be engaged in a national debate about whether to kill programs or to keep them, but rather about how to make them more efficient for taxpayers and more effective for children. I believe quite frankly, it is a waste of Nancy Daly and many of those in this room to have to exert such effort and influence just to keep up where we are in terms of a national commitment of excellence to children. But I am enough of an historian and a politician to know that some-

times you have to play defense and work and wait for a better time to come. Unfortunately, the children are waiting, too, and millions of them do not have four or eight years to spare while politicians and voters figure out what they really want to do.

I see these obstacles as a challenge to those of us who hold a public trust. I have little pity or tolerance for those who bemoan the loss of a majority, or a chairmanship, or the other accoutrements of power. Other have lost far more than we, and they will continue to lose, to have their opportunities shattered and their futures stunted, if we wallow in self-absorbed anguish over an election.

Nancy Daly serves as an inspiration because she understands that what matters are the results. Beginning without a shred of political power, she has built monuments to the hopes and the futures of children throughout America, and I very much doubt she has given an hour since last November to questioning whether she should do anything but redouble her efforts on behalf of the kids who need her, and us, more now than ever.

Nancy, my warm congratulations to you on receipt of the richly deserved Lifetime Service Award. And since it is a "lifetime" award, I would note that you have several additional years of service that we are all looking forward to.

I am delighted to be able to participate in this tribute to a wonderful woman tonight, and honored that you have allowed me to share this evening with all of you.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER— JANICE BANKERT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of Miss Janice Bankert, a high school junior in my district who won the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Voice of Democracy" State competition. Miss Bankert has a lofty and noble vision for American democracy. One that, I might add, we should all strive to achieve—quoting Miss Bankert, "the barriers that are to be conquered are but foothills to a mountain if we are unified." Indeed, if we "put away prejudices and stubbornness" we can restore belief and faith in the "judgment of (the) government" again.

I salute Miss Bankert and submit the text of her script to be printed in the RECORD.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

I have a vision for America that in my lifetime there will be a revolution of new thoughts which will sweep over this nation and produce in the heart of our society a stronger desire for democracy than ever before. My vision is that the dreary attitudes of leaving the decisions up to Washington will dissipate into the inclination to rise and to speak forth about the laws and principles that shape this country into what it is, and into what it will become. My vision is that on the evening news, instead of an overwhelmingly negative report about the goings-on in the White House, there will be loud acclamation and approval . . . because the people will feel that they are being heard. Instead of just voting, people will write letters, gather petitions, and communicate with the politicians from their districts and regions about what they need, and what they would like to see happen in their

government. Ladies and gentlemen, my vision is that democracy will thrive in this nation by once again being planted and nurtured by the citizens.

For my fantasy to become reality the people for which this nation was first built must build it again with their own hands. Like the "amber waves of grain" is the power and greatness of this country. This nation is a harvest that has already been planted, and now needs cared for every moment, to be gathered with thankfulness and satisfaction. It is a fruit so fertile and awesome that it will take the unity of a nation to reap it . . . and enjoy its bounty. To do this, every person must invest time and effort. We all must work to change what is adverse to our common goal, an America we can take pride in, and like farmers in a field, weed out our enemies: hate, discord, indifference, and defacement of hope.

The task that faces us is not an impossible one if we are unified. The barriers that are to be conquered are but foothills to a mountain if we are unified. Our victory is not invisible if we are unified. Unified . . . each of us putting away prejudices and stubbornness, ignoring petty issues, believing in the judgment of our government, and having faith in the banner that has long been the embodiment of our allegiance to the democracy that began over two-hundred years ago, and continues today . . .

My vision for America is one that is common, but will only live if we, as citizens of the United States of America, actively birth it from our hearts, and allow it to suffocate no longer.

My vision for America is for each individual to feel as part of a union and to proudly, joyously say, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

HONORING THE CESAR CHEVEZ WRITING CONTEST AWARD WINNERS OF THE EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remaining winners of the first annual Cesar Chavez writing contest held by the East Side Union High School district in San Jose, CA. I had the great privilege of attending the award ceremony honoring the student winners on March 31, 1995, and would like to continue sharing the essays and poems written by the student award winners with my colleagues.

On April 4, 1995, I began by sharing the essays and poems of the Grand Prize Winners and three of the First Place Winners. On April 6, 1995, I shared the five remaining First Prize entries, and the first three of eight Second Place winning entries. Today, I will share the remaining five essays and poems of the Second Place Winners.

The Second Prize winning essays and poems of Marie Aloy of Mount Pleasant High School, Mark Papellero of W.C. Overfelt High School, Raymond Ramirez of Piedmont Hills High School, Ester Martinez Estrada of Santa Teresa High School, and Anthonette Pena of Silver Creek High School follow: